



VH4Change

VOTE NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Vadnais Heights for Change

Our community needs you. #VH4Change

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Sign the Petition

What's At Stake



Here's what's on the line, our current council is extremely conservative and so far this year alone the following events have occurred:

- Council Member Youker refused to consider a GreenStep city proposal. (Update: On August 5 she was asked to put it on the workshop agenda for Aug.18 meeting.)
- Council Member Urban attended the “Liberate Minnesota” rally.
- Council Member Urban wrote and submitted an “Open MN” resolution demanding that the governor open all businesses immediately (this was drafted in April). The resolution was kept off of the public agenda and was pushed through and voted on without public input and in direct disapproval of our local businesses who asked it not be submitted.
- Vadnais Heights citizens write in letters in protest to resolution, Urban accosted citizen during Open to Public part of meeting.
- Council Member Craig Johnson made homophobic, xenophobic, and racist statements on social media. Resigned only after it was brought to the media.
- Community rallied to push for a Human Rights Commission in Vadnais Heights, several members spoke at workshop but were ignored.
- Former Council Member Terry Nyblom is running again for City Council. Learn about his domestic abuse conviction here.

#VH4
CHANGE



Open to the Public

Sign the petition
in support of a
**Human
Rights
Commission**
in Vadnais Heights,
Minnesota



What are the goals of a Human Rights Citizens Committee? <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Ensure equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services and education■ Advise City Council on long-range programs and policies to ensure that human services needs are met■ Assist the Minnesota Department of Human Rights in applying state law against discrimination■ Receive discrimination complaints and when appropriate forward to MN Department of Human Rights for further action	What would a Human Rights Citizens Committee do? <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Host community events designed to bring people together to learn more about each other including speakers, forums and listening sessions■ Connect with our local across districts and find opportunities to collaborate on events with similar goals■ Contribute to city's newsletter and social media with information about human rights issues
Other interests & topics of concern <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Structural racism and white privilege■ Reviewing property deeds for racial covenants■ Understand how bias impacts our community■ Understand shifting demographics of Vadnais Heights■ Immigration■ Law enforcement and community relations	What would this look like for Council and Admin? <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Space on city's newsletter and social media for updates and reactions to meetings■ Council and administration liaison to attend meetings■ Assistance on surveys to get community input on human rights priorities■ Implicit bias awareness training for all elected officials and city administration

Local Issues

COUNCIL MEMBER URBAN REFUSES TO COMPLY WITH MASK MANDATE

On August 4, 2020, the Vadnais Heights City Council held a formal meeting to conduct scheduled business. Council Member Urban refused to wear a mask. This choice is part of a long pattern of not following safety guidelines recommended by Governor Walz, the Minnesota Department of Health, and

CDC. Here is the city's official website where video of all council meetings are posted: <http://mn-vadnaisheights.civicplus.com/>

Council Member Urban used his public position to commend the "Liberate Minnesota" rally which he also attended. This behavior is consistent with his private businesses too. According to city spokesperson Sarah McKenzie, Wild Greg's Saloon in Downtown was issued a citation for violations between July 16 and July 18. Furthermore, on May 5, Council Member Urban drafted and pushed through a resolution to Governor Walz to reopen all businesses in Minnesota going against the wishes of our local business leaders.



FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER TERRY NYBLOM SAYS HE'LL RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL AGAIN

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What you need to know about Terry:

Terry Nyblom violated a no-contact order put in place to protect his former girlfriend from him. He was ordered to undergo mental health counseling and a year of probation. Why was an order of protection necessary? In 2017, Terry Nyblom made verbal threats to kill or injure his girlfriend, adding that **"they're not going to do anything to me, I'm a city councilman,"** the woman alleged. She said Nyblom then grabbed her by the collar of her jacket, pulled her up forcefully from her chair and tried to choke her, according to the report. Deputies said they found a bruise on her right bicep where the jacket rubbed the skin. He plead guilty to disorderly conduct last November. A couple months later, Nyblom violated his no contact order. Read more about it [here](#).

In addition to his record of violence against women, Nyblom has threatened to not pay his taxes if the government doesn't do what he wants, refuses to wear a mask, refers to the governor as King Walz, and shared a post saying "If you defund the police you should know I don't own any rubber bullets." (source: [Facebook](#))

RESIDENTS PUSH BACK ON CITY COUNCIL'S REOPEN RESOLUTION

Disappointed that they didn't get a chance to comment on the Reopen Minnesota resolution passed May 5th by City Council one spokeswoman used open time at the May 19 meeting to share resident opinions.

Citizens admonished city leaders for denying the opportunity for citizens to weigh in on the Reopen Resolution, which was not on the public agenda, and said it was passed without support of the business community or Vadnais citizens.

Full article [here](#)

COUNCIL MEMBER CRAIG JOHNSON FORCED OUT OVER RACIST, HOMOPHOBIC, AND

XENOPHOBIC SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

It's really bad. This has no place in our city, Vadnais Heights. I am relieved that Mr. Johnson will no longer represent



our city but this is proof that people in power with hateful messages are dangerous and should be automatically disqualified from holding office.

See for yourself, City Pages article [here](#).

COUNCIL MEMBER GREG URBAN'S EXCHANGE WITH VADNAIS HEIGHTS RESIDENT:

Imagine speaking about the concerns of your neighbors at the Open to Public portion of a city council meeting and being accosted by a council member for over 30 minutes and NO ONE stepped in to stop it. What message does that send to the citizens of Vadnais Heights? This behavior is unprofessional, immature, and inappropriate. **Watch the video clip [here](#).**

RESPONSE TO COUNCIL MEMBER URBAN'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On April 1, 2020, Council member [Greg Urban wrote an irresponsible and self-serving letter to the editor](#).

Gov. Walz's decision to extend the Stay Home order until May 4 is responsible and will benefit the economy long-term. It is not, despite what Vadnais Heights City Council member Greg Urban says, a "complete lockdown on the few freedoms we have." Urban's statement is an emotional scare tactic that is nonsensical and attempts to make a pandemic political. Mostly, it's downright dangerous.

Urban's letter never mentions concern for the safety of Vadnais Heights citizens. It doesn't thank healthcare workers or first responders. He does, however, complain about the impact COVID-19 is having on his bars (two of which are in Florida, where he spends much of his time). Considering how good our city has been to the Urban family, it is a slap in the face that his public letter wouldn't include any worry for the citizens that elected him.

Here's why Urban's message is irresponsible and dangerous: When elected officials belittle public safety policies, it sends a message to voters that COVID-19 isn't serious and in turn, they're less likely to take precautions. We must listen to doctors and scientists. Nearly 15,000 Americans have died, almost 400 in the states Urban spends most of his time.

Vadnais Heights
Climate Change

Finally, the Stay Home order is not a “complete lockdown” or an “unprecedented taking of liberties” as Urban complains. Essential businesses are still operating, people are free to go outside, shop for necessities, even liquor stores are open. As Gov. Walz points out, “I know this is hard for our entire state. We know everyday families, businesses, and communities are making sacrifices. It’s a data-driven decision that will help our hospitals on the front lines, curb the spread of COVID-19, and ultimately save lives.” If given the choice between Gov. Walz's data and Council member Urban's emotions - I choose data.

Vadnais Heights cannot trust Council member Urban. His selfish words indicate his priorities are not with our city, but his own business interests. He should resign now, so we don’t have to wait two more years to replace him with someone who actually cares about our safety and not just our money.

VADNAIS HEIGHTS REBELS AGAINST A HUGE NEW APARTMENT COMPLEX

The small, close-knit suburb of Vadnais Heights is fighting over a small piece of swampy land... [read more here](#).

RAMSEY COUNTY DIVERTING MILLIONS FROM PARKS PROJECTS TO PAY FOR NEW VADNAIS SPORTS CENTER DOME

Many other park projects will lose funding in order to pay for new Vadnais Sports Center. [Dome funding](#)

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF GREEN CITIES

To highlight the many economic benefits of sustainability and efforts of cities across the country the National League of Cities has recently released two new resources... [read more here](#).

CLIMATE GROUP MAKES NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS

Vadnais Heights resident Steve Jorissen retired early so he could raise awareness on climate change... [read more here](#).

Action Ideas in Our Community

DEMAND A SPECIAL SESSION

Vadnais Heights **posted this** on June 23, 2020.

There is no reason City of Vadnais Heights Government can't call a special session before 7/21 to formalize this and still be able to get feedback from the community. This committee is as important as a planning commission & health/public safety commission. Definitely more important than Heritage Days committee.

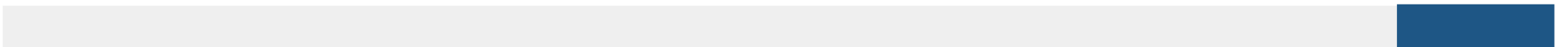
Vadnais Heights citizens should ask these questions:

- Explain what you mean by "inclusion."
- Will this task force be temporary?
- How much influence will this committee have? Who will choose the members?
- How will recommendations from the committee be handled by council?

Our community is asking for equal representation & real policy that makes human rights a significant part of future Vadnais Heights council decisions. Council forced through a resolution no one asked for in three days to serve their interests. Ask them to move fast on this to serve ours.

- Please email the council and advocate a Human Rights Commission, not a "task force" or a community engagement committee. Tag them on social media too. All council members can be emailed at once with this

email address:





vhcouncil@cityvadnaisheights.com

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Last week residents emailed council and proposed forming a Human Rights Citizens Commission for Vadnais Heights. We were happy to hear that they would be discussing it at this week's council workshop. However, the hope that something would happen was dashed again by the excuses of "we need time." Remember, just a few weeks ago they pushed through a resolution in three days that no one asked for.

The workshop was an embarrassment to our city. The four remaining members of our council have decided to drag their feet on a Human Rights "task force" and the appointment for Craig Johnson's seat stating that it needed more discussion and consideration.

It was uplifting to see community members come forward and speak about the need for more diverse voices in VH leadership.

The time is now. Please reach out to your neighbors. We need to replace two council members and a mayor on November 3, 2020.

AMERICA IN CRISIS

We have a responsibility in every city, no matter how big or small, to stand up for equality and civil rights. Here is a list of resources to support Black Americans both now and in the future. Taking down the norms that support systematic racism should be a top priority.

- Donate to Black Lives Matter **here**.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

Our neighbors and small business owners in St. Paul and Minneapolis are suffering.

- **Here are resources** to help them restore their communities.



HAVE YOU COMPLETED THE CENSUS YET?

It takes only a couple of minutes and can be done with the form that was mailed to you can complete it online.

- Click **here** for more information.

Meet the Candidates



City Council Member Candidate: Erik Goebel

Erik Goebel is proud to be a 10-year resident of Vadnais Heights. He lives with his wife of 6 years and their adorable rescue dog, Barney. Erik has a strong interest in helping his community. He is an entrepreneur and scientist. Erik earned his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Minnesota in 2013.

Erik's experience includes Vadnais Heights Area Community Foundation Board Member, Vice President of Carriage House Association, and Board Member of the Vadnais Heights Garceau Task Force. Read more about Erik [here](#).



City Council Member Candidate: Steve Rogers

Steve Rogers has been an active resident of Vadnais Heights since 2007. A sales professional with just over 30 years of experience, Steve has spent the last 13 years in technology sales. He has been in management and mentor positions throughout his career.

Steve serves as DFL Precinct Chair for Senate District 42, Precinct 2 after serving a year as Vice- Chair. He volunteers at Neighborhood House in St. Paul and has past volunteer experience at Big Brothers, Big Sisters. He also served on the capital campaign committee at his church in 2012.

See his [recent Letter to the Editor](#). Contact Steve [here](#).



- Please email the council and advocate for our neighbors. Tag them on social media too. All council members can be emailed at once with this email address: vhcouncil@cityvadnaisheights.com
- For social media, follow [VH4Change](#) for action ideas to retweet and always [tag Vadnais Heights](#) when you post. Use hashtag [#VH4Change](#).

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CHANGE

11/3/20

VOTESAVEAMERICA.COM

Vadnais Heights occupies the lands of Wahpekute, Anishinabewaki ᐱᐢᓂᓴᓇᐅᐱᓴᓴᓴ, and Očeti Šakówin (Sioux).